

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 00786 281211Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 /084 W
-----281407Z 007626 /45

R 271745Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6175
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OAU, XA, XF, AG
SUBJECT: ALGERIANS AND SAHARA SUMMIT

1. ALGERIAN COVERAGE OF NIAMEY SAHARA SUMMIT LONG ON RHETORIC
AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE.

2. ALGERIANS EVIDENTLY ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO
MEETING; BOUMEDIENE TEAMED UP WITH BOUTEFLIKA AGAIN AND
THEY WERE ALSO ACCOMPANIED BY KEY COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION
FIGURE SURETE DIRECTOR AHMED DRAIA. IT WAS KNOWN IN
ALGIERS BEFORE BOUMEDIENE'S DEPARTURE THAT QADHAFI WOULD
NOT BE GOING; ALGERIA'S FIRST TEAM SHOWED UP ANYWAY.

3. "SOLIDARITY", "FRATERNITY" AND " COOPERATION" WERE
DOMINANT THEMES OF ALGERIAN PRESENTATION OF SUMMIT. MAIN
POINT OF EXTENSIVE TV COVERAGE SEEMED TO BE THAT BOUMEDIENE
HAD BEEN LOUDLY ACCLAIMED BY "HUGE CROWDS" LINING THOROUGHFARES
UPON ARRIVAL IN NIAMEY. PRESS DEVOTED ALMOST AS MUCH SPACE
TO BOUMEDIENE'S STOPOVER IN TAMANRASSET AS IT DID TO HIS
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NIAMEY APPEARANCE.

4. TO EXTENT LOCAL OBSERVERS ARE SPECULATING ABOUT
SUMMIT, MAIN LOCAL THEORY IS THAT IT REPRESENTED
ALGERIAN STEP AWAY FROM LIBYA. ACCORDING TO THIS
THESIS, LIBYA'S LUKEWARM SUPPORT FOR ALGERIA'S
SAHARA CAUSE SET STAGE, BUT KEY TO CURRENT ESTRANGEMENT

IS QADHAFI'S STEPPED-UP SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS IN NIGER, CHAD AND MALI. ALGERIANS REGARD THEMSELVES AS PROTECTORS OF NIGER AND MALI AND RESENT LIBYAN INFRINGEMENT. THUS ALGERIA WAS PREPARED TO ATTEND NIAMEY SESSION WITH FULL DELEGATION IN ORDER TO LAUNCH COUNTER TO QADHAFI EFFORTS.

5. WHATEVER LAY BEHIND BOUMEDIENE ATTENDANCE, SAFE TO PRESUME HE DID NOT SKIP OPPORTUNITY TO PLEAD ALGERIA'S SAHARA CASE. IF TRAORE, KOUNTCHE AND MALLOUM WERE INDEED SEEKING BACKING AGAINST QADHAFI, THEY MAY HAVE LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, AND SUCH ATTENTION SUFFICIENT RATIONALE FOR ALGERIANS TO GO MOST ANYWHERE.LYNE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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